

**The Times-Dispatch**  
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1913.

**WHAT RICHMOND WANTS.**

The Administrative Board persisted in its mistake. It has appointed its choice as Building Inspector. The community will pay the price of inefficiency. But that damage is done. The Times-Dispatch joins in the general expression of hope that the new inspector may do better than his qualifications indicate. We also trust that the members of the board have learned a lesson. That lesson should be that the people of Richmond expect a square deal, and that if they do not get it they will find some means to eliminate the men who do not give it. The best politics the board can play hereafter is to serve the city.

Now we want to look to the future. One fact is plain. Whatever may be done by the Administrative Board, the responsibility cannot be shifted. The point-blank facts state the city in the face. From now until doomsday, Whitte, Folkes and Hirschberg will have to bear the burden of their action. That is one big forward step. It is something to be thankful for. Nothing can be shirked on the plea that a committee was responsible. No cumbersome and tedious processes of Council action are going to obscure things. The board is in the limelight. When any member comes up for reelection his fitness can be weighed and measured fairly and openly.

If the board realizes this fact, the next thing is to get to work and make a record. Five men never had a bigger chance to do things for a whole community. We pray most earnestly that they may seize their opportunities. Richmond is growing. It faces big problems. It has installed this new system to help it grow. It wants results. It expects its investment of \$25,000 a year to bear rich dividends. Lastly, then, what does Richmond want? It wants co-operation between the Board, the Council and the Mayor. It wants initiative, energy, vision, hard work and economy. It wants a municipal government that is equal to the best in the country. It wants the board to consult the people, to consult the department heads, to consult with authorities from other cities. It wants all the facts published, the plans explained and the results stated. It wants efficiency in every branch of public service.

Specifically, these urgent needs call for initiation or support by the board: better streets, with a cleaning system that will keep the mud off Main Street and make it look less like a village road; a big scheme for the reorganization of the railroad district and the methods of traffic distribution; a union station; a public library; an auditorium; more recreation facilities; a clean-cut staff of the gas question, with the ultimate aim of better service and cheaper rates; an honest solution of the hospital matter; economy in the conduct of departments; and a government that serves all the people all the time.

The Times-Dispatch believes in constructive action. These problems face the board. Where will it begin to show that it is working for Greater Richmond and not for private gain?

**THE DANGER OF HASTE IN BANKING REFORM.**

The latest advice from Princeton relative to the conference between Representative Glass and President-elect Wilson over banking reform legislation indicates that this question will be vigorously discussed during the next few months. As vital as the need for reform in our national banking system obviously is, however, any tendency to rush legislation forward at this juncture would undoubtedly be disastrous. Apropos of the existing situation, the New York Journal of Commerce makes the following pertinent editorial comment:

"The division that is said to exist on the currency question between radical, conservative and moderate is a division arising from ignorance, confusion of mind and lack of mature consideration, and not from a difference of policy that has any standing in the policy of economic study or experiment. So far as fundamental principles and the main features of practical operation are concerned, there is but one policy that can be pursued with safety or any chance of permanency. Congress is manifestly not prepared to adopt that, and will not be so when it comes together for the revision of the law. President Wilson cannot bring the factions of his own party together to any useful purpose at that time if he tries, and he may as well intend to try. No doubt his position on the subject should be clearly defined, but he cannot join in the alleged errors and attempt to bring the others to his support or effect a compromise that will bring them together in the present unripe state of mind in Congress and in the country without making a mess of it."

Banking and monetary questions have throughout our financial history suffered from the heresies and delusions of well-intentioned but ignorant statesmen and publicists. There can be no doubt that sufficient progress has not been made at the present time in

the work of education for Congress or the country to pass intelligent judgment upon this important but technical matter. Even among the bankers themselves there is widespread ignorance and diversity of opinion. The Glass committee should gather all the information possible, and the organizations which have been conducting a campaign of education should redouble their efforts. The decision has already been reached by bankers and business men that banking reform is necessary, but the problem remains of disseminating information which will lead to the development and crystallization of a unanimity of opinion upon some special proposal for legislation. Despite the importance and urgent need of remedial legislation, hasty action would undoubtedly result in a worse banking and monetary situation than that under which the business world is now laboring.

**FARMS FOR CITY PRISONERS.**

Richmond should note carefully the statement of Dr. Mastin's investigation into the use of farms instead of jails for the care of city prisoners. The report of the committee for Richmond of the Board of Charities and Corrections emphasized the humanitarian aspects of this system. Dr. Mastin's figures show its financial advantages. By the District of Columbia a farm of 1,100 acres was operated last year at a profit of \$111,000. The appropriation from the Treasury for maintaining the jail was \$134,000. The difference of \$23,000 represents the total actual cost to the District of maintaining its place of correction. Yet in former years when the institution was not self-supporting in any way, the cost had gone as high as \$150,000. In Norfolk, the experiment has resulted in reducing the average cost per prisoner to a minimum. In some other States the State turns over a certain per cent of the prisoner's earnings to his family. This in part meets the absurd situation that arises when a man is sent to jail for non-support of his family, and thereby absolutely prevented from giving it any support at all.

The broader social benefits are obvious. Open-air work and regular habits reform men in a way that mere confinement can never do. In particular drunkards are cured and returned to society as respectable citizens able to contribute to the community wealth. The health of the prisoners is noticeably improved. The moral effect is equally potent.

Mr. Vonderlehr has advocated the prison farm method for Richmond for a long time. He will introduce into the Council an ordinance providing this system for the treatment of certain classes of delinquents. The Times-Dispatch urges the adoption of what is manifestly a means of saving money now paid for the maintenance of prisoners who are idle and make no return to the city. When economy and humane treatment can be combined as in this plan, there is no possible ground for opposition unless it be that of selfish personal interest.

**CO-OPERATION OF FARM AND CITY WIVES.**

A unique plan of campaign for combating the rising price level is in process of organization in Pittsburgh. It consists of an arrangement between housekeepers in the city and farmers' wives, by which they agree to co-operate to eliminate the profits of the middleman and the retailer. The Pittsburgh women have formed what is known as a Federated Marketing Club, and have made arrangements with a large number of farm women for the shipping of butter and eggs to club members by the parcels post. The wife of each farmer is given a list of customers to which to make regular shipments of butter, eggs and other farm produce suitable for transportation through the mails. The striking feature of the scheme is that each farm wife is relieved from all danger of loss by the guarantee of the account of each member of the club by the club itself. The movement seems to be very practicable and one which could be adopted with profit by the housekeepers in Richmond and in all other cities of the country.

**THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE CENTENNIAL.**

It is "taken for granted" by the London Spectator that the proposal to celebrate in 1914 the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the last war between the United States and Great Britain, will be acted upon enthusiastically by both Americans and Englishmen. In that contemporary's opinion, it is well worth while to commemorate the accomplishment of a hundred years of undisturbed peace between the English-speaking peoples, and to form the resolution which such an event will imply, "that the peace shall never again be broken." But with it all the Spectator sees a cloud in the horizon. It hears in anticipation the echo of a discordant note in the jubilation.

For in the mind of the Spectator it is impossible for any one to reflect on this question of peace throughout the English-speaking world "without sadly remembering that at this moment a shadow lies across the relations of Great Britain and the United States." It regards "the acute difference" in the rival constructions of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty as "a deep irony coming after Mr. Taft's advocacy of arbitration between Britain and the United States for any purpose whatsoever, even if the honor or essential interests of either appeared to be involved." In that conception, our London contemporary is not singular. It has the support of by far the large number of the more substantial, responsible, influential and reputable newspapers of this country, and the

outspoken endorsement of many of our leading publicists.

In the judgment of the Spectator the issue between the two nations is something vastly more important than the mere question whether British ships shall or shall not pay a disproportionate share of the tolls for the maintenance of the Panama Canal. The issue, at the core, as our contemporary apprehends it, is whether "Englishmen shall be able or not to feel that the United States can be trusted to abide by an undertaking in the highest, most honorable and most scrupulous sense that can be placed on any form of words." Galling language that, but no thoughtful man can deny that it crystallizes the real, the vital, the paramount issue.

The Spectator takes some of the sting out of the above judgment in the case by expressing the belief that "the part of the American nation that is led by some of the greatest jurists and most noble minds in the land will win over the other part," but, in conclusion, argues that a peace which is preserved on insecure grounds of suspicion and mistrust will be no true peace. It refers to war as "unthinkable," yet in fortifying its contention as to what alone contributes true peace, it says: "We must be able to trust unquestioningly any American government that may happen to be in power if we are to construct the edifice of confidence and good will which is the dream of those planning the celebration for 1914. The peace that we hope to celebrate must be firmly based on the highest mutual respect, which admits no suspicion that the spirit of international agreements can ever be sacrificed to the letter." From the absolute conclusiveness of this reasoning, there is no possible escape. In default of these relations between the two nations, the celebration must be largely perfunctory; a hollow show; in a sense, and a most discreditable sense to us, a travesty.

The way, and the only way, to forestall such conditions is to dissipate the "shadow that is projected athwart the commemoration by repelling the discriminating canal-toll legislation, cost us in lucre what it may, or agreeing to submit the issue to arbitration. There is no other way in which we can insure and command the respect and confidence not only of Britain, but of the other great powers of the earth, or preserve our own self-respect and vindicate our national honor. If that is not done the celebration shall occur, the shouting and the enthusiasm will be more significant of pretense and sham than of genuine peace and the further cementing of the Anglo-American friendship, mutual good will and trust that have obtained for a century.

**MEDITATION ON ORCHIDS.**

These pink flowers the girls wear scrambled up with ferns and lilies of the valley are orchids. They are strange in form, delicate in coloring, and so fashionable that to appear on Broad Street with an orchid bouquet lifts the proud wearer at once into the haute ton. Worn by the right girl they are very beautiful flowers. But worn by a good many girls they are merely tokens of pride and a materialistic age. They are symbols. For it is not as a flower that an orchid wins its glory and its prestige. Its charm is in its costliness. The orchid by any other name might smell as sweet, if it smells at all, but it wouldn't at any other price. They are so expensive that they indicate both devotion and generosity in a girl. They are so expensive that some girls only wear one. The rest is made up of above-mentioned ferns and lilies. But even one shows that he had the proper spirit although his purse could not meet all demands. A whole bunch means madness. It also means sometimes that the giver goes short on lunch for a month. The pink of orchids to a keen imagination resembles the curled splendor of many bank checks, and the green seems the pleasant tint of paper bills.

The orchid furnishes any number of texts. One has to do with the high cost of living. Another concerns feminine vanity. A third has to do with masculine folly. A rather sharp sermon on good taste and simplicity in street dressing might come from profound meditation on orchids. But the best and most humorous is this. Some girls buy their own orchids. They must appear in the mode and flushed with the offerings of admirers. The orchid is a symbol of popularity. It is better to wear one's own orchids than to wear none at all. If you are sceptical, ask the florist.

Meanwhile the beauty and fragrance and poetry of roses and violets are forgotten. They are not rare and costly and exotic. They do not represent portable fortunes. They simply mean sentiment and affection and sincerity. They have done service to bear love messages many centuries. They are hallmarks of worth rather than dollar marks. They are like rituals made sacred by long use. There may be a moral in these reflections. Who knows?

The trouble with New Year's resolutions is that they are so hard to keep. Anxious Inquirer: No, the last census does not put Stanton ahead of London.

The new health rules may kill the germs in the schools, but the old health ruler was what cured the mischief bug.

With no hard feelings at all, we hope 1912 will be the date on the tombstone of the highcostliving.

Richmond cannot have the Olympic games, but if all the athletes got together in the new association we can have some games, anyhow.

**On the Spur of the Moment.**  
By Roy K. Moulton.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.  
Ansel Higgins, formerly of this man's town, has resigned from the regular army, and in the future expects to do most of his drilling after dark in some well-known bank. When a feller is so pug-nosed you can hang a kettle on it, he ought to go to some damitological institute and get it laundered.

I see a member of the smart set of polite society down to New York has bought a \$1,200 garter for a chorus girl. He must have plenty of that elastic currency we hear so much about. Jay Higgins has accepted a permanent position as floor walker; mother and baby doing well. Anson Frisby asked Uncle Ezra Harkins the other day if he thought graftin' would ever be abolished in this country, and Uncle Ezra said he hoped not, because the peach crop in this section depends upon plenty of grafting.

Mrs. Anson Frisby is so high-toned she has had the fence removed from around their place. Anse says he is afraid to go to bed nights now for fear he will catch cold and get the garip. Anse is quite a comic for a money lender. Old Man Purdy gave a speech down to Tobbits' grocery store the other evening and said what this country needs was fewer taxidermists. He says every time a feller turns around there is somebody at his elbow to collect taxes.

Enos Hand was down to the city the other day and bought a clock at a high-toned jewelry store. Enos says it will run eight days without winding. I wonder how long it would run if they would wind it.

Butler is butter these days, and few can afford to eat it. Grandpa Bibbins allows as how he is going to wait until some minstrel show comes along and get some of the olio from them. Grandpa is too old to spring jokes, and half of them get lost in his whiskers while on their way to the expectant and palpitating public.

A swell razzabo from the city was in this man's town last Saturday with his buzz wagon. He asked the way to West Hickeyville, and Willie Tummas sent him in the opposite direction on the road to Hickeyville Corners. Willie is the town hero nowadays. Durn them city fellers with their whizzles cars, anyhow. It ain't safe to walk in the mud any more in this vicinity or elsewhere. William Tibbitts' folks lost two hens by the pip three weeks ago Thursday. There is no clue yet, although Constable Eben Hand is at work on the case.

When We Watched the Old Year Out. It used to be a lot of fun to watch the old year out.

When all the olive branches of the family sat about. The big fireplace and listened to many a ghostly tale.

With the trees outside a-creaking as they bent before the gale. And the shadows playing tag upon the ceiling and the floor.

No kid had the courage to get up and shut the door. When it blew open with a bang and let the blizzard in.

And make us think the world had ended by its fearful din. How us kids would crowd together as the hour grew rather late.

And never move our optics from the big, old-fashioned grate. When every tongue of flame that went a-skipping up the flue.

Seemed like a friend departing, and we all felt kind of blue. When naught was left but embers and old grays that stood in line.

To tell us of the goblins in the lands where he had been. And the witches that would get us if our ways we didn't mend.

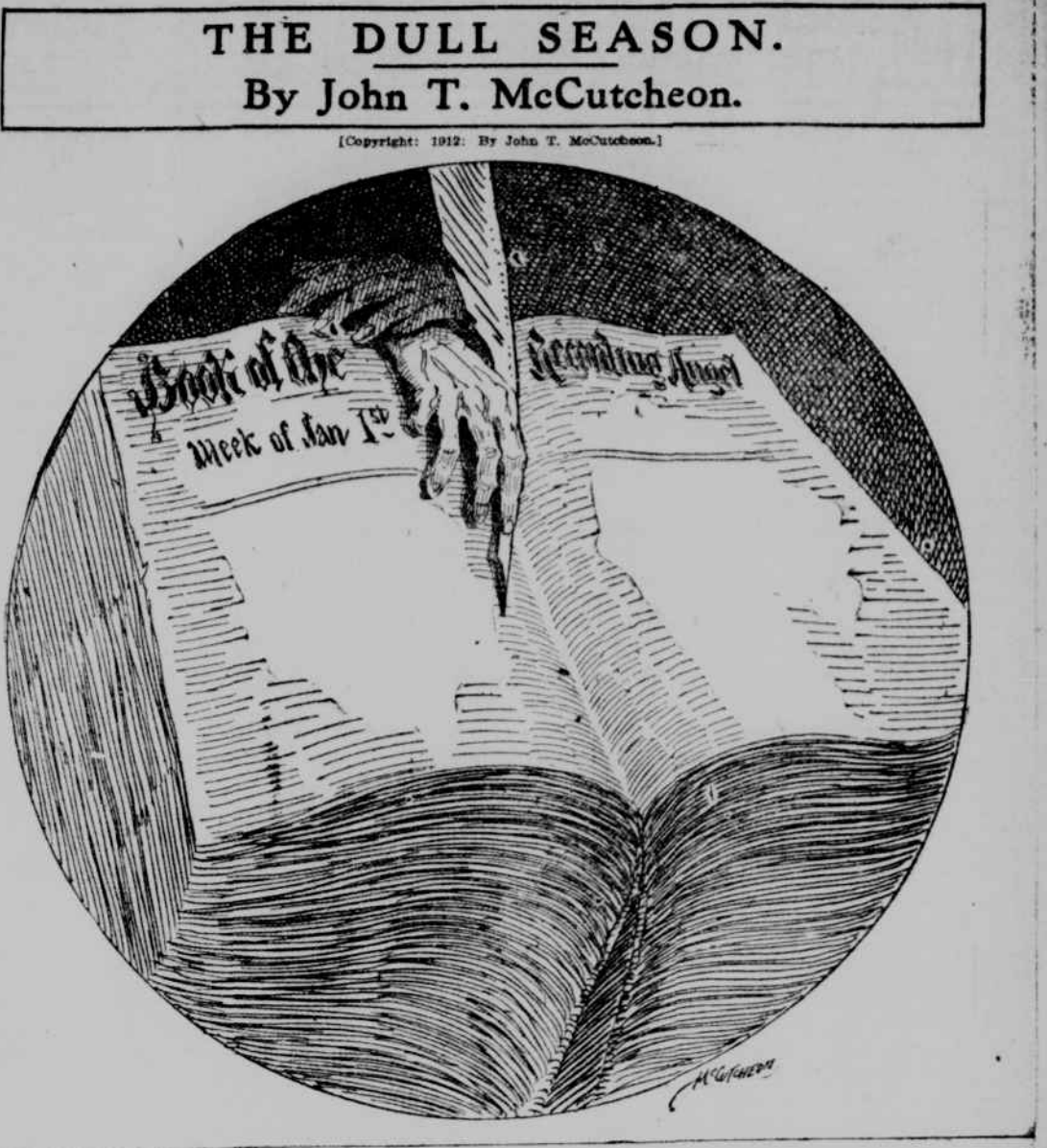
Till every hair on every head was standin' straight on end. We had to sit and listen, for we dast not stir an inch.

We wouldn't even look around, not even on a pinch. When every shadder was a ghost and every sound a wall.

And every lad would stick there to the finish without fail. The old church bell would gaily ring sharp on the midnight hour.

It sounded strange and made us kids all shiver, shake and cower. It sounded like the farewell moan of some departing soul.

And then granddaddy would call for volunteers to get more coal.



**News of South Richmond**

**ORPHANS ENJOY OUTING**

Youngsters from Bethany Home have a good time on an outing. Forty-five orphans and three matrons of the Bethany Home, near Bon Air, were given an outing yesterday afternoon by a number of prominent Southsiders. Ten automobiles were donated for the purpose, but owing to the terrible condition of the roads only nine succeeded in reaching the home. The children were bundled into these and brought to South Richmond, where they were the guests of the management of the Victoria Theatre at a special matinee.

The cars in which the trip was made were loaned by H. V. Baldwin, L. E. Ullman, Clarence Vaden, Oscar Brinner, Donald Adamson, J. C. Davis, George W. Roams, James S. Bradley, A. J. Crockett and Judge Ernest H. Wells, chairman of the committee of arrangements. The children were loaded down with fruits and candies and thoroughly enjoyed the ride. Fifty-three miles were covered by the machines in making the double trip.

The Bethany Home is a charitable institution and was run by Mr. Burroughs since the death of his wife last year. It is entirely dependent on contributions of friends. Several Southsiders have interested themselves in the institution, and were successful in getting many valuable donations prior to Christmas. The committee in charge of soliciting the contributions consisted of Mrs. W. J. Carter, Mrs. Charles T. Jones and Miss Ella Mayo. By their energetic work there were no empty stockings on Christmas morning.

**Fifty Years in One Home.** Surrounded by four generations of descendants, Mrs. Margaret Wright, mother of Captain Alexander S. Wright, of the Third District, yesterday morning in the same dwelling, Mrs. Wright, who is entering her seventy-second year, has lived at 215 Blainbridge Street for more than a half century, and has never failed to celebrate the birth of the new year in her own home.

**Water Main Bursts.** The bursting of a twelve-inch water main near the standpoint on Spring Street caused a short interruption in the water service on the Southside yesterday afternoon. The break was quickly mended by a force of men under the direction of Charles Burkert, assistant superintendent of the Water Department.

**Death of Chester Citize.** William S. DuVal, a prominent resident of Chester and a former county surveyor, died yesterday morning at 1 o'clock at his home. Besides his widow, Mrs. Ida DuVal, he leaves four daughters, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Sled and Miss Lillie, and four sons, Quaid, William E., Frank P. and McFriend DuVal. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. George Jones and Mrs. H. C. Jones, and four brothers, Emmett T., Harry L., J. P. and Frank DuVal.

The funeral will be held this morning at 10 o'clock from the home, Rev. C. N. Fries will officiate. The burial will be at Salem Church grounds.

**Serious Charge Dismissed.** James Perry, a young married colored man, who was arraigned yesterday morning in Police Court, Part II, on a serious charge preferred against him by a seventeen-year-old girl, was dismissed by Justice H. A. Maurice. The evidence was not sufficient to warrant the case being sent on to the grand jury.

**To Hear Suit To-Day.** The suit of W. W. Ballard against S. T. Meredith, in assumption, will be heard before Judge Ernest H. Wells this morning in Hustings Court, Part II. N. Fries will officiate. The opposing attorneys will be the opposing attorneys.

**Business Men to Meet.** The annual election of officers and will be held by the South Richmond and

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